THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Union Labour Secretary attended the meeting of the Governing Body of the ILO at Geneva (Switzerland) during 17—21 November, 1997.

Non-Payment of Statutory Dues of Workers of CPSUs

1013. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2569 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th August, 1997 and state:

(a) the total outstanding arrears of non-payment of statutory dues of the workers in CPSUs as on 30th September, 1997;

(b) the details of un-paid amount PSU-wise;

(c) the action taken by the sub-Committee formed by the Cabinet to liquidate the dues; and

(d) in case no action has been taken, the reasons for the delay and failure of Government to meet their legal liabilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) The matter was taken up by the Group of Ministers on 29.8.1997 to decide the strategy for liquidation of past dues to workers and prevent such defaults in the future. Based on the recommendations of GOM, the Government will take a decision accordingly. As a result of assurances given by varioius Departments to clear outstanding statutory dues of workers, these liabilities have come down over time.

(d) does not arise.

Law for Non-Payment of Provident Fund

1014. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a law to take recourse to action against those companies who default in payment Provident Fund; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) There is already a law namely the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 which regulates matters relating to Provident Funds. The companies which default in payment of PF dues are liable for legal and penal action as provided under section 7A, 8, 8B, 14, 14B, 14AA, etc. of the EPF & MP Act and where necessary, also under section 406/409 of the Indian Penal Code.

Non-Payment of Wages to Workers by PSUs

1015. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whetehr it is a fact that a large number of Public SEctor Undertakings have defaulted in the payment of wages to its workers; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to clear the outstanding dues at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) According to information collected from various Ministries/Departments having administrative control of Public Sector Undertakings, it is understood that some units have defaulted in payment of wages to workers. The Government prepared a status paper on the subject seeking directions of the Cabinet on the strategy to be adopted for liquidation of these arrears. The Cabinet in turn constituted a Group of Ministers (GOM) consisting of

Minister of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance and Minister of State for Labour. The GOM met on 29.8.97 to recommend steps for liquidation of past statutory dues to workers and prevent such defaults in the future. Already, as a result of efforts taken so far, outstanding arears to workers including wages have registered a notable decline over time.

Plight of Indians Travelling without proper documents

1016. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the plight of the Indians who have been taken to foreign countries, particularly Germany without proper permission/documents from those countries;

(b) whether the Indian Embassy in Belarus has shot a film in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that the innocent people of the country are not harassed by the travel agents and also by the officials of those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Embassy of India in Belarus has shot a film titled "Road to Germany" in Belarus narrating experiences of some Indian illegal migrants whose ultimate destination was Germany throgh Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania and/or Poland, The quality of the film was not sound enough to telecast it in the mass media.

(d) With a view to ensuring that the recruting agencies/employers do not exploit the Indian workers, there are numerous procedural safeguards. The following guidelines/provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 already exist to curb nefarious activities of recruiting agencies:—

(1) The Emigration Act, 1983 contains adequate legal and penal provisions to curb/control the activities of the illegal recruiting agencies. All offences under the act are cognizable.

(2) Recruitment of Indian workers for work abroad is done only through the registered Recruiting Agents. As and when cases involving recruitment by illegal agents come to the notice of the Government, immediate action is taken to refer the matter to the police authorities.

(3) Employment documents in respect of all workers in whose case emigration clearance is required are properly scrutinised in the POE Offices with a view to ensuring that the workers are sent against genuine demands only.

(4) Immigration authorities at International Airport have been advised from time to time, to scrutinise the passports and other related documents before
allowing the workers to emigrate.

(5) Missions abroad intimate the names of the fraudulent recruiting agents/employers to the Protector General of Emigrants, Ministry of Labour. Such employers are included in "Prior Approval Category" (PAC) and any further recruitment for these agencies is stopped, till such time a fresh positive recommendation is received from the Indian Mission abroad.

अहमदाबाद में कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम के मुख्यालय का प्रशासनिक ढांचा

1017. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या अहमदाबाद, गुजरात में कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम के मुख्यालय का कार्यकरण और प्रशासनिक ढांचा अत्यधिक असंतोषप्रद है और इसमें करोड़ों रुपए का वित्तीय घोटाला प्रकाश में आया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;